Name:



New York State Testing Program

English Language Arts Test Session 1

Grade 5

Spring 2025

_ _

RELEASED QUESTIONS



TIPS FOR TAKING THE TEST

Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

Directions Read this article. Then answer questions 8 through 14.

Excerpt from Yo-Yo Ma

by Mary Olmstead



- Yo-Yo Ma has been playing the cello since he was a young boy. He gave his first concert at the age of five. Because of his talent, hard work, and creativity, today Yo-Yo Ma is one of the world's finest cello players.
- Yo-Yo Ma rocks his cello from side to side. He draws the bow across its strings. He concentrates completely. He seldom looks to see where to place his fingers. He throws his head back. His eyes close, his glasses reflecting the bright lights of the stage. His face is a mirror of the music he draws out of his instrument. During these moments Yo-Yo Ma feels at one with the music, with the other musicians, and with his audience.
- Listening to Yo-Yo Ma play the cello in concert is magical. He springs onto the stage with youthful energy. He greets the audience and the orchestra with a warm smile. Taking up his cello, he cradles the large instrument in his arms. The audience grows quiet. Soon they are drawn into a story he tells using his cello.
- Yo-Yo Ma loves making connections—to other kinds of music, to history, and to people. That is why his music appeals to so many different kinds of audiences. People like his sunny personality as much as they like his great talent. He travels the world bringing music and joy to people's hearts. . . .

GO ON

Early Childhood

5

6

7

8

Yo-Yo Ma was born to Chinese parents in Paris, France, on October 7, 1955. His father Dr. Hiao-Tsiun (hee-ow-shun) Ma was a violinist and music professor. His mother Marina was a singer. Yo-Yo has a sister who is four years older named Yeou-Cheng (yo-chung). The words "Yo" and "Yeou" both mean "friendship" in Chinese. . . .

Surrounded by Music

Yo-Yo was surrounded by music as an infant. Singing, playing, and listening to music was as natural as breathing for the Ma family. His mother had been trained as an opera singer. She sang in a beautiful, strong voice. His father played the violin. His sister played piano and violin. His parents played records of classical music for their children.

Yo-Yo's parents helped their son develop his musical talent. When he was very young, Yo-Yo could sing in tune. Yo-Yo began piano and violin lessons when he was three. His piano teacher was amazed at how quickly he learned. Dr. Ma taught his son to play the violin. He noticed that Yo-Yo did not seem very interested in it. . . .

A Big Instrument

One day Yo-Yo's father took him to the Paris Conservatory of Music. In the corner was a large double bass. It is a stringed instrument that is about twice the size of a cello. The double bass is so big that some adults stand up to play it. Yo-Yo stopped and looked at the huge instrument. He pointed to it and said excitedly, "That's what I want to play!"

Paris Conservatory of Music = public university in Paris, France, for music students

- 9 Yo-Yo told his father he did not like the sound the violin makes. "I want a big instrument," the three-year-old said. The double bass was way too big for such a little boy, so Dr. Ma got Yo-Yo a small cello instead.
- 10 Years later Yo-Yo offered another reason why the violin did not hold his interest. He said his sister Yeou-Cheng was "a fantastic musician, and I probably thought I could never play as well."

Note by Note

Dr. Ma was Yo-Yo's first cello teacher. He had a special way of teaching. He did not start with easy pieces of music. Instead he taught Yo-Yo how to play music by one of the world's greatest composers, Johann Sebastian Bach. Bach wrote long, difficult pieces of classical music. . . .

Short Lessons

- The method Dr. Ma used to teach his son was simple. He gave very short lessons. Each day Yo-Yo only had to learn two measures of music. A measure is a few notes of music. Several measures make up a larger piece of music. Dr. Ma insisted that Yo-Yo learn each measure perfectly. That meant Yo-Yo had to memorize the notes. Then he had to practice them over and over.
- Every day Yo-Yo would learn two more measures of a Bach suite, a long piece of music. Soon he learned to recognize patterns in Bach's music. Yo-Yo liked learning longer pieces of music this way, because he did not have to practice very long. After he learned every measure, he put them all together. He played beautiful, complex pieces of music.
- Many young cello players find it difficult to memorize music. Yo-Yo explained why his father's method made it easy. "When a problem is complex, you become tense," he said. "But when you break it down . . . you can approach each element without stress."
- Dr. Ma said Yo-Yo played "like a shining star." He had a good memory, and he concentrated better than most children his age. By the time he was five, Yo-Yo could play three Bach suites by heart. That year, he gave his first public recital at the University of Paris.

recital = concert

- Based on information in the article, what can the reader conclude is the **most likely** reason Yo-Yo was able to play a public recital when he was only five years old?
 - **A** Yo-Yo realized that he enjoyed performing for an audience's reaction.
 - **B** Yo-Yo was ready to perform because of his father's teaching.
 - **C** Yo-Yo had finally found an instrument that he enjoyed playing.
 - **D** Yo-Yo knew he would perform the music well because of his excellent memory.
- Which statement **best** describes the relationship between Yo-Yo Ma and his parents?
 - A They support Yo-Yo's early desire to become a cello player.
 - **B** They all enjoy listening to different types of music.
 - **C** They hope Yo-Yo's choice of instrument will be the piano.
 - **D** They are all talented enough to become famous musicians.
- Which detail from the article **best** shows how Yo-Yo connects with people when he performs?
 - A "Yo-Yo Ma has been playing the cello since he was a young boy. He gave his first concert at the age of five." (paragraph 1)
 - B "Yo-Yo Ma rocks his cello from side to side. He draws the bow across its strings." (paragraph 2)
 - C "He throws his head back. His eyes close, his glasses reflecting the bright lights of the stage." (paragraph 2)
 - The audience grows quiet. Soon they are drawn into a story he tells using his cello." (paragraph 3)

- Which detail from paragraph 6 best supports the meaning of the phrase "as natural as breathing" 11 in the same paragraph?
 - "surrounded by music" Α
 - "trained as an opera singer" В
 - C "played piano and violin"
 - "records of classical music" D
- Why are paragraphs 6 and 7 important to the article? 12
 - They suggest that Yo-Yo's musical talents come naturally to him. Α
 - They show how Yo-Yo's parents greatly influence his passion for music. В
 - C They explain why Yo-Yo has more interest in the cello than the violin.
 - They describe how Yo-Yo quickly learns to play because of his teacher. D
- Which central idea is supported by details in paragraphs 12 and 13? 13
 - Family members are necessary for success. Α
 - Learning something new can prove challenging. В
 - Small problems rarely cause people to feel stress. C
 - Breaking large tasks into smaller parts helps learners. D

Read this claim from paragraph 15.

Dr. Ma said Yo-Yo played "like a shining star."

Which phrase from paragraph 15 best supports this claim?

- **A** "had a good memory"
- **B** "concentrated better than most"
- **C** "could play three Bach suites by heart"
- **D** "gave his first public recital at the University of Paris"

Directions Read this story. Then answer questions 22 through 28.

2

3

4

5

6

7

Excerpt from "The Sun, Moon, and Stars"

a traditional Navajo story retold by Donna Henes

The First People had only four lights to illuminate the world: white light from the eastern mountains, blue light from the southern mountains, yellow light from the western peaks, and darkness from the north. These lights were dim and much too far away to bring heat.

The people wanted more daylight. "We barely have enough to see," they complained.

So First Woman sent Glowworm, Fox Fire, Lightning Beetle, and Firefly to the four corners. They would give more light when it was needed.

But the First People were still not satisfied. "These lights are too small. They flicker on and off and are of little use to us. We do not have night eyes like Owl or Bat!" First Woman kept trying to please her people. She consulted Fire Man on his glowing mountain. He offered to make the land around Fire Mountain bright, but he warned her that the light would not cover all the lands and there would be smoke.

The people liked the brightness, but they were still not happy. "We do not like the heat and the smoke that comes from Fire Mountain. The heat scorches the earth and we are choked by the smoke," they grumbled.

Eventually, First Woman had an idea for a different way to send light to Earth. She asked for a large, flat piece of the hardest rock available. After a long search, the people brought her a slab of quartz. It took a lot of hard work and a lot of help for First Woman to carve the quartz into two wheels.

Once the wheels were ready, First Woman and First Man decorated them as faces with symbols of the powers they each had. They decorated the first wheel with a mask of blue turquoise to give light and heat. They attached red coral to the earlobes and around the rim. On each side was a horn to hold male lightning and rain. On the rim, they placed bird feathers—cardinal, lark, and eagle—to fly it through the sky and spread the rays of heat and light in the four directions. This was the Sun wheel.

GO ON

- When it was time to decorate the second wheel, First Woman said, "We do not need more heat and light. This one will carry coolness and moisture." She and First Man used white shell to create a face, with a band of yellow pollen on its chin and a rim of red coral. This wheel had feathers, too: magpie, nighthawk, turkey, and crane feathers to bear its weight. Its horns held female lightning and soft winds. This was Moon wheel.
- "This Sun wheel and Moon wheel cannot stay here," declared First Woman. "We must place them in the sky!" First Man suggested they carry the disks to the top of the highest mountain and fasten them to the sky with darts of lightning, which the people did.
- Now the people had light, heat, coolness, and moisture all coming from the sky. But still they found something to complain about. Because the Sun always stayed in the east and never moved, one side of the land had an unending summer, and the other side had a winter that lasted forever. "This is not right," they whined.
- First Man agreed. "The Sun must move across the sky, but how can it travel when it is only a stone and has no spirit?" At that moment, two ancient, wise men stepped forward and offered to help. "We will give our spirits to the Sun and the Moon so they will have life and power to move across the sky." One entered the turquoise disk and he was called Jóhonaa'áí, or Sun Bearer; the other entered the white disk and he was called Tl'éhonaa'áí, or Moon Bearer.
- Once the Sun and the Moon were following their paths through the sky, the people returned to where First Woman had carved the wheels. The blanket where she had worked was covered with many small stone chips of every shape and size, plus stone dust from the cutting.
- "These white stones must not be wasted! We will use them to make more lights in the night sky," exclaimed First Woman. So again, they worked with their flint knives, chisels, and stone hammers to shape the stars.
- To this day, the Sun, the Moon, and the stars created by First Woman, First Man, and all the people remain in the sky where they give light and heat by day and luminous, sparkling patterns at night.

22	Which statement best expresses First Woman's relationship with the First People?							
	A She hopes her people will not become discouraged.							
	В	She is focused on bringing new types of light to her people.						
	C She believes her people should be happy with the light they have.							
	D She is frustrated that her efforts are not appreciated by her people.							
23	Which phrase best supports the meaning of "illuminate" as used in paragraph 1?							
	Α	"too far away to bring heat" (paragraph 1)						
	В	"They would give more light" (paragraph 3)						
	C	"They flicker on and off" (paragraph 4)						
	D	"the people brought her a slab of quartz" (paragraph 6)						
24	How	does the narrator mainly develop the character of First Woman?						
	Α	by describing her actions						
	В	by referring to her visit to Fire Mountain						
	C by sharing her thoughts							
	D	by showing her working with First Man						

- Which sentence **best** represents the turning point in the story?
 - A "Eventually, First Woman had an idea for a different way to send light to Earth." (paragraph 6)
 - B "On the rim, they placed bird feathers—cardinal, lark, and eagle—to fly it through the sky and spread the rays of heat and light in the four directions." (paragraph 7)
 - C "At that moment, two ancient, wise men stepped forward and offered to help." (paragraph 11)
 - Once the Sun and the Moon were following their paths through the sky, the people returned to where First Woman had carved the wheels." (paragraph 12)
- Which detail **best** expresses a theme of being determined?
 - A "So First Woman sent Glowworm, Fox Fire, Lightning Beetle, and Firefly to the four corners." (paragraph 3)
 - **B** "She consulted Fire Man on his glowing mountain." (paragraph 4)
 - **C** "It took a lot of hard work and a lot of help . . ." (paragraph 6)
 - D "... they worked with their flint knives, chisels, and stone hammers to shape the stars." (paragraph 13)

7	7

This question is worth 2 credits.

In "The Sun, Moon, and Stars," how do First Woman and First Man work together? Use two details from the story to support your response.							

This question is worth 2 credits.

In "The Sun, Moon, and Stars," how do paragraphs 4 and 5 affect the tone of the story? Use two details from the story to support your response.							

Name:



New York State Testing Program

English Language Arts Test Session 2

Grade 5

Spring 2025

RELEASED QUESTIONS



TIPS FOR TAKING THE TEST

Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

For the last question in this test book, you may plan your writing on the Planning Page provided. However, do NOT write your final answer on the Planning Page. Write your final answer on the lined pages.

Directions Read this article. Then answer questions 29 through 35.

Excerpt from On the Back of a Turtle

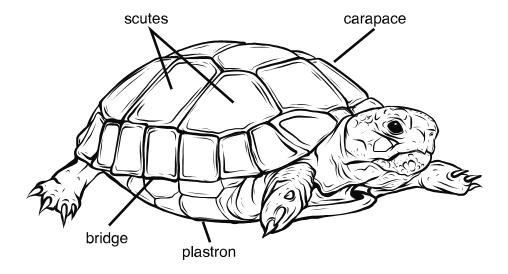
by Maria Hlohowskyj

- Sitting on a log in a slow-moving stream, a crowd of turtles bask in the sun. They are not afraid of hungry hawks or coyotes. Their hard shells protect them.
- 2 So how did turtles get their armored suits?

How the Turtle Got Its Shell

- Turtles are reptiles, in the same family as snakes and lizards. But unlike snakes, turtles have a hard shell on the outside. A turtle's shell is made of living bone—it's part of the turtle's skeleton. Muscles attach to the shell in the same way your muscles attach to your bones. So turtles can never leave their shells.
- For the last 200 million years, turtles have looked pretty much the way they look today. But 220 million years ago, a turtle ancestor called *Odontochelys semitestacea* did not quite have a shell yet. It had an extra-wide backbone and flat ribs that grew in a round, open shape. This fossil and other clues suggest that turtle shells evolved from backbones and ribs that expanded and grew together to form a solid bone shell.
 - Turtle shells have three parts. The top, over the turtle's back, is the *carapace*. The bottom, protecting the turtle's belly, is the *plastron*. The plastron is also bone. Connecting these on the sides are the *bridges*. Together, these parts create an incredibly strong shell that protects the turtle from predators.
- When you look at a turtle's shell, you don't see the bare bone. Over the bone, turtles grow a thick layer of keratin, the same material your hair and fingernails are made of. This keratin forms plate-like sections called *scutes*. The square or hexagon ridges on a turtle's shell are the scutes! Scutes protect the bone and also give turtle shells their color.
- Bone is alive, so a turtle's shell grows as the turtle grows. New thin layers of scutes push the old layers up. This makes stepped ridges that give turtles their rough, scaly look. You can see from the ridges how much the turtle has grown.
- Not every turtle has scutes. Soft-shell turtles, pig-nosed turtles, and leatherback sea turtles grow a thick layer of leathery skin instead.

5



What Shape Is Your Shell?

9

10

11

13

Lalainya Goldsberry is a biologist who cares for turtles and other small animals at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Chicago. Some of the turtles live inside the museum, for kids to look at up close. Wild turtles live in a lagoon in back.

Lalainya loves to look at turtles. If you do too, you may notice that they are not all the same shape. Some have big, round, dome shells. Others are almost flat. Some are smooth. Some are bumpy. All these different shapes are suited to how the different turtles live. . . .

Pancake is a spiny softshell turtle, one of the species that does not have scutes. Spiny softshells live most of their life in fresh water. Their flat shape and leathery shell help them swim fast and burrow into the sand at the bottom of the water.

Box turtles get their name from their best party trick—they can close themselves up like a box. The secret is a hinge on their plastron. When a box turtle sees danger, it pulls its head and legs in close to its body and folds up its plastron at the hinge, shutting the shell up tightly. In winter, box turtles have another trick. They hibernate under the ice. They breathe by absorbing oxygen from the water through the skin in their butts.

Patsy is an alligator snapping turtle. These big turtles lure fish into their mouths with a tongue that looks like a wiggling worm. To catch a fish, snapping turtles have to stay very still for a long time. Patsy has a rough, craggy shell with thick scutes. This helps her look like a rock as she waits patiently to catch her dinner. In fact, alligator snapping turtles often have moss growing on their shells, just like real rocks!

lure = attract

GO ON

Many turtles have a lighter color on their plastron. Bob the Blanding's turtle is a good example. Bob is dark brown on top, and pale yellow on his chin, neck, and plastron. When a Blanding's turtle swims, predators looking down into the water see the turtle's dark top, which blends in with the dark water. But predators swimming below the turtle see the yellow parts, which blend in with the light shining down into the water. This type of camouflage is called countershading.

What is the meaning of the word "bask" in paragraph 1? 29 Α to enjoy to hide В C to ignore to swim D Paragraph 10 is important to the article because it 30 describes why a biologist "loves to look at turtles" Α questions why turtles are rarely "all the same shape" В C suggests that some turtles have round "dome shells" states that various shells are better for "different turtles" D According to scientists, turtles have existed on this planet for more than 220 million years. How 31 does the author support this idea in the article? by explaining that turtles belong to "the same family as snakes and lizards" (paragraph 3) Α by referring to a "fossil and other clues" that show how shells have changed (paragraph 4) В by explaining that it is possible to "see from the ridges how much the turtle has grown" C (paragraph 7) by referring to the "flat shape and leathery shell" that help alligator snapping turtles swim D quickly (paragraph 11)

Which phrase from paragraph 14 best supports the meaning of the word "camouflage" in the 32 same paragraph? "a lighter color on their plastron" Α "looking down into the water" В C "blends in with the dark water" "predators swimming below" D According to information in the section "What Shape Is Your Shell?", how do some turtles catch 33 their prey? by making holes in the sand Α by remaining still and using their tongues В C by pulling their legs into their shells by having brown shells and yellow on their bellies D The diagram helps the reader better understand the article by showing the location of different parts of a turtle's shell Α the size of the scutes found on a turtle's shell В

C

D

how the bridges connect the shell to the plastron

how the turtle is able to avoid different predators

- Which detail would be **most** important to include in a summary of the article?
- **A** Turtle muscles attach to shells in the same way human muscles attach to bones.
- **B** Different parts of the turtle shell work together to form a protective barrier.
- **C** Keratin can be found in both turtle shells and human hair and nails.
- **D** Scutes protect the turtle's bones and provide color to the shell.

35

Directions Read this poem. Then answer questions 36 and 37.

Millo Castro Zaldarriaga lived in Cuba and later became a world-famous musician. When she first played in a band in 1932, there were no female drummers in Cuba.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music

by Margarita Engle

On an island of music in a city of drumbeats the drum dream girl dreamed

- of pounding tall conga drums
 tapping small *bongó* drums
 and boom boom booming
 with long, loud sticks
 on big, round, silvery
 moon-bright *timbales*.
 - But everyone on the island of music in the city of drumbeats believed that only boys should play drums

15

so the drum dream girl had to keep dreaming quiet secret

20 drumbeat

dreams.

At outdoor cafes that looked like gardens she heard drums played by men but when she closed her eyes

25 she could also hear her own imaginary music.

When she walked under
wind-wavy palm trees
30 in a flower-bright park
she heard the whir of parrot wings
the clack of woodpecker beaks
the dancing tap
of her own footsteps
35 and the comforting pat

of her own heartbeat.

At carnivals, she listened to the rattling beat

40 of towering dancers
on stilts

and the dragon clang of costumed drummers

45 wearing huge masks.

At home, her fingertips rolled out their own dreamy drum rhythm on tables and chairs...

50 and even though everyone kept reminding her that girls on the island of music had never played drums

the brave drum dream girl dared to play

55

65

tall conga drums small *bongó* drums and big, round, silvery moon-bright *timbales*.

60 Her hands seemed to fly
as they rippled
rapped
and pounded
all the rhythms

of her drum dreams.

Her big sisters were so excited that they invited her to join

their new all-girl dance band

but their father said only boys

should play drums.

So the drum dream girl had to keep dreaming and drumming alone

vntil finally

her father offered

to find a music teacher

who could decide if her drums

deserved

to be heard.

The drum dream girl's

teacher was amazed.

The girl knew so much

but he taught her more

and more

and more

and she practiced

and she practiced

and she practiced

90 until the teacher agreed

that she was ready

to play her small $bong \acute{o}$ drums

outdoors at a starlit café

that looked like a garden

95 where everyone who heard

her dream-bright music

sang

and danced

and decided

100 that girls should always

be allowed to play

drums

and both girls and boys

should feel free

to dream.

This question is worth 2 credits.

The girl in the poem "Drum Dream Girl" listens to many different sounds. How do these sounds help her to become a better drummer? Use two details from the poem to support your response.

Directions Read this story. Then answer questions 38 and 39.

Sana'a is a city in the country of Yemen. During the time of this story, music was forbidden in Sana'a.

Excerpt from "The Oud Player of Sana'a"

by Carolyn Han



In the city of Sana'a, an old man with an orange-hennaed beard could not stop playing his four-stringed Yemeni oud—no matter how hard he tried. During the day he hid the musical instrument in a wooden chest inside his house. Only late at night, while his neighbors slept, did he dare take the oud out of its hiding place.

orange-hennaed beard = a beard that has been colored using dye made from a plant

GO ON

Before removing his oud from the chest, the man closed his wooden shutters and stuffed fat pillows in the windows so his music would not escape. Holding the instrument in the crook of his arm, he played and sang. . . .

The following night the old man waited until it was very late before taking the oud from its hiding place. At first he fingered the strings lightly so that the music stayed inside the house. But he soon became carried away—swept up in song—and his playing and singing grew louder.

Shutters creaked open. Oil lamps glowed. Faces appeared at the windows. Barefoot men dressed in long nightshirts stormed out of the arched doorways and ran to tell the soldiers that someone was playing music. . . .

After a breakfast of sweetened tea and a circle of flatbread, the old man was taken to court. "Why did you break the law?" asked a dark-bearded judge who sat behind an enormous wooden desk.

"Music is a gift," the oud player replied.

3

4

5

6

7

8

13

"What do you mean?" questioned the judge, his eyes narrowing.

"I've been given the gift of being able to play and sing music. I cannot refuse to embrace it," the old man answered. "I'll show you." He took the oud from his sleeve.

9 "Stop!" the judge shouted, pounding the desk. "Stop at once!"

"How can I prove my case if you don't listen to the evidence?" the old man asked, cradling the oud. . . .

"On top of a mountain no one could hear the music," one judge suggested.

So that afternoon nine sure-footed donkeys traveled up a rocky path carrying eight judges and an oud player. On the mountaintop, the judges gathered in a circle. The oud player sat on a nearby rock. Removing the instrument from his sleeve, he began to tune the oud. It had been a long time since the judges had heard any music—even the harsh unmusical tuning of an oud. . . .

One by one the judges found themselves swaying to the music. At first faint smiles appeared on their lips . . . and finally, wide grins covered their faces. Relaxed and content, one judge glanced skyward. "Look!" he shouted, pointing.

The others followed his gaze. They were amazed to see hundreds of oud-shaped clouds floating across the sky. More and more clouds appeared as the oud player continued strumming and singing. . . .

Today music is no longer forbidden in Yemen. Musicians can play openly, and often oud-shaped clouds can be spotted in the sky above Sana'a.

This question is worth 2 credits.

"The Oud Player of Sana'a" develop this idea? Use two details from the story to support your response.								

Planning Page

You may PLAN your writing for question 39 here if you wish, but do NOT write your final answer on this page. Writing on this Planning Page will NOT count toward your final score. Write your final answer on Pages 21 and 22.



GO ON

39

This question is worth 4 credits.

What is a theme shared by "Drum Dream Girl" and "The Oud Player of Sana'a?" How is the development of this theme similar in the poem and the story? Use details from **both** the poem and the story to support your response.

In your response, be sure to

- identify a theme shared by the poem and the story
- explain how the development of the theme is similar in both the poem and the story
- use details from **both** the poem and the story to support your response

GO ON